(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of Assam has informed that they have initiated steps to address the issues raised by the Assam Tea Tribe Students Association (ATTSA) in a time bound manner. The State Government have also constituted a Committee for resolving these issues by discussions with the representatives of Assam Tea tribe Students Association (ATTSA).

Contract Employment System in Newspaper Industry

1711. SHRI JIBON ROY:
SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that newspaper barons are using contract employment system to deny newsmen their dues;

(b) whether Government would agree to abolish the contract system and regularise the services of news persons; and

(c) whether Government would also agree to bring a comprehensive amended working Journalists Act so as to ensure stoppage of unlimited period of working hours with meagre compensations?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) and (b) The employment system covering the newspaper establishments and the newsmen involves direct employer-employee relationship. The employment conditions, which also cater to hiring of personnels on contract basis, are determined through mutual negotiations.

(c) There is no such proposal under consideration.

Minimum Wages for Labourers

1712. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be piеased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 445 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 15th July, 2004 and state: